

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 INR-07 DODE-00 NSC-05 IO-13  
OIC-02 CIAE-00 PM-04 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
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S E C R E T STATE 069818

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, XF, XA

SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING, MARCH 30

REF: A) USNATO 1674 B) USNATO 1748

1. IN RESPONSE TO SYG LUNS' REQUEST, YOU MAY INDICATE  
DURING MARCH 30 NAC MEETING THAT WE WILL PROVIDE IN NEAR  
FUTURE ANALYSES ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CASTRO AND  
PODGORSKY VISITS TO AFRICA. MOREOVER, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT  
WE JOIN LUNS IN WELCOMING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER ALLIES  
ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS. IF POSSIBLE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE  
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AN INDICATION OF ALLIES WHO PLAN TO SUBMIT ANALYSIS ON  
THESE VISITS. (FYI: CONTRIBUTION ON CASTRO VISIT BEING  
PREPARED AND WE HOPE TO TRANSMIT IT IN TIME FOR NEXT NAC.  
ANALYSIS OF IMPLICATIONS OF PODGORNY TRIP WILL BE PREPARED  
FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF VISIT AND WILL BE PROVIDED AS  
SOON AS AVAILABLE.)

2A. IN RESPONSE TO CATALANO'S QUESTION ABOUT OUR REACTION TO A GROWING REAPPROOCHMENT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE USSR, YOU MAY SAY THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND ARE NOW ENGAGED IN A REVIEW OF OUR POLICIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

B. THE SOVIETS WAITED OVER TWO YEARS BEFORE THEY GAVE THEIR BLESSINGS TO THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, AND NOW THEY ARE RESPONDING TO THE OPPORTUNITY OF IMPROVING THEIR POSITION IN ONE OF AFRICA'S MOST POPULOUS COUNTRIES.

C. WE BELIEVE THE SOVIETS WILL PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN ETHIOPIA, ATTEMPTING TO BALANCE OPPORTUNITIES THERE AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSING ALREADY SECURED ADVANTAGES IN SOMALIA. THE SOVIETS, WE FEEL, HAVE SATISFIED THEIR CURRENT STRATEGIC NEEDS IN SOMALIA, BUT ETHIOPIA IS MORE IMPORTANT POLITICALLY OVER THE LONGER TERM. A DISINTEGRATED ETHIOPIA, HOWEVER, WOULD LOSE A GOOD DEAL OF ITS ATTRACTION.

D. CASTRO HAS REPORTEDLY OFFERED ETHIOPIA ARMS AND TRAINING FOR ITS PEOPLES' MILITIA AND HELP IN ERITREA. ASSUMING THE CUBANS ARE SERVING IN CONCERT WITH THE SOVIETS IN THIS MATTER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SUCH SUPPORT IS DESIGNED TO INSURE THAT IF THE SOVIETS CHOOSE ETHIOPIA THEY WILL NOT BE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO A DISINTEGRATING ASSET.

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E. OUR PRESENT LEVERAGE IN ETHIOPIA IS SERIOUSLY LIMITED. THE EPMG CLEARLY IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING TIES WITH THE SOVIETS AND APPARENTLY HAVE ONLY LIMITED INTEREST IN OUR MILITARY MATERIEL. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOMALIA WILL ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS FELLOW ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS PRESENT CLOSE TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

F. CUBAN AND SOVIET EFFORTS IN THE HORN ARE BEING COUNTERED BY INITIATIVES OF MODERATE ARAB LEADERS. THE SAUDIS HAVE REPORTEDLY OFFERED THE SOMALIS SUBSTANTIAL SUMS IF THEY WILL REDUCE THEIR TIES TO THE SOVIETS. SUDAN'S PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING PRESIDENT SIAD TO THE FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE IN N. YEMEN INDICATES THAT SIAD IS CONSIDERING THE ALTERNATIVES BEING PROFFERED BY THE ARABS.

G. WE WILL BE WORKING WITH SUDAN, KENYA, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA CONCERNING HOW BEST TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS

IN THIS VOLATILE REGION.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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